URGENT U.S. HELP IS ASKED BY GHANA

Emergency Food Requested —Spare Parts Also Short

3/8/66

By LLOYD GARRISON

Special to The New York Times

ACCRA, Ghana, March 7—Ghana has formally appealed for United States emergency food assistance to tide the country over the next six months and relieve near-starvation conditions in the northern provinces.

Ghana is also in need of foreign currency to pay for spare parts for her Air Force. The country's short-term loans for imports terminate at the end of April.

The United States is considering both problems.

The military junta said today the emergency proclaimed after its coup d'état Feb. 24 was over, and Lieut. Gen. Joseph Ankrah, junta chairman, paid an emotional farewell to cheering troops of the Second Brigade, now being returned to its base at Kuamisi in the interior.

Associated Press

Lieut. Gen. Joseph Ankrah

General Ankrah said the Air Force was almost totally grounded for lack of parts. Ghana Airways, the civil airline, is beginning to suffer the same plight.

Industry Is Crippled

A lack of parts is also crippling the industy, depriving the nation of much needed revenue and contributing to unemployment.

According to Government officials and missionary relief agencies, large parts of the arid north are near starvation because of drought and the breakdown of transport bringing

Under former President Kwame Nkrumah, who was ousted in the coup, the conservative, predominantly Moslem northerners were the most neglected group in Ghana.

If Washington moves swiftly, Ghana's new anti-Communist Government could have vitally needed rice, flour, powdered milk and cooking oils by April.

Last November, the United States rejected President Nkrumah's request for $120-million in food spread over a five-year period. The rejection reflected a policy decision to do nothing more to shore up Mr. Nkrumah's regime.

The former Ghanaian leader was also negotiating with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development financial aid to rebuild the nation's foreign currency reserves, depleted by corruption and spending on prestige projects. Few thought the bank would grant Mr. Nkrumah's appeal.

Now the outlook has changed radically. The new military leaders have already stopped work on an unnecessarily long runway and airport complex the Russians were building for the Air Force at a cost of $30-million.

The junta has also promised economies and taken steps to curtail flights by Ghana Airways on non-aying routes that Mr. Nkrumah kept open to show the flag.

Bank Sends Study Team

In answer to an urgent request, the bank is dispatching a fact-finding team to Accra from Washington next week.

Today was a holiday and thousands demonstrated in ways on non-paying routes that General Ankrah toured army camps.

Troops cheered General Ankrah wildly when he told them: "Nkrumah had no confidence in us. While we needed uniforms and spare parts and the people needed food he was building ammunition dumps for his own private army."

The general urged the troops to bear no grudge against members of Mr. Nkrumah's presidential guard, which defended his residence the day of the coup.

"They are now rejoining the regular army," he said. "We must bury any anger you hold between you and your brother. And if your brother was there in the guard shooting against you, do not be resentful for he is a soldier, too, and obeying orders."

Lutz Herold, a 47-year-old West German journalist who was sentenced under the Nkrumah regime to 40 years at hard labor for concealment of treason, was released today.

He said others at the old Ussher Fort Prison included Geoffrey Bing, 56-year-old British lawyer and law drafter for Mr. Nkrumah, and a former South African Senator, Hyman Basner, who was the former President's adviser on propaganda.